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Open arms

Local church plans world's largest hug

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Members of the Open Arms Church and the Van Buren Public Schools will once again reach out to 'hug' the community in an effort to break a world record.

The 2008 Help Unity Grow (HUG), which will take place April 19 at Belleville High School, is a powerful way to join hands and say how the community stands together to Protect Everyone's Access to Community Education (PEACE), event organizers said. The belief is that the schools and community are a safe place to live and learn and this reinforces that, while taking on the Guinness World Book of Records for the World's Largest Hug, according to officials.

"We didn't make the record last year, but this year we're going for 7,000 people," said June Brokos, chairperson and member of the church. "The hug is open to anybody."

The HUG will bring the whole community together around the schools to stand together in support and show what it takes to make children, teachers, administrators and all who support their work safe, organizers said.

The HUG originated last year

At last year's event, you could feel the energy in the air and the positive community support all around.

Pete Lazaroff

through a spiritual campaign—40 Days of Community—and the overwhelming response of positive impact ignited numerous requests for community leaders to hold an annual HUG event, according to Pastor Jim Richter.

"I've seen much positive growth in our schools and community that started with last year's HUG event," said Pete Lazaroff, school superintendent. "Each school had volunteers that worked on school beautification projects on that day of the HUG that accompanied needed maintenance and repair around our schools. Community members who passed by our schools during this time stopped and offered help, resources or food to the workers. Our parent teacher organizations and the parent involvement committee experienced a surge in membership and momentum after the HUG and, a new organization within our district—the parent teacher organization council was created.

"I would like to invite anyone who would like to experience something purely positive and, to support our community, to attend the HUG," he added. "At last year's event, you could feel the energy in the air and the positive community support all around."

To break the world record, there must be video footage, pictures and 18 witnesses or judges—not affiliated with the community—to record the 7,000 people in 90 minutes. Registration slips will be sent home to students and those who register on the day of the event will have to show proof they're a part of the school district.

"Last year there was just under 1,000 people, but I think in a heartbeat we'll be able to do 7,000 this year," said Brokos. "People want to come together for a positive reason."

The event will start with a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., during which a teacher appreciation program will honor many within the school district. Funds generated from the breakfast will go to the Van Buren Schools Education Foundation and the Community, Alumni and Friends for Van Buren Public Schools.

At 10 a.m. the HUG will take place with the parent teacher organization beatification project to follow from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the schools at (734) 697-9123, ext. 225 or Richter at the church at (734) 699-5000.

Police bus program will continue

The Van Buren Township Public Safety Department recently conducted a 'Police Officer on a Bus' program to monitor violations of state law that requires drivers to stop while the bus is boarding or unloading students.

According to police, officers are riding on school buses to observe vehicle traffic while the students are being picked up. Officers cited four motorists for bus violations. Police will also continue to monitor the situation with zero tolerance for violations.

The program is scheduled to continue throughout the school year. Areas of concern can be reported to the township police department traffic services at (734) 699-8907.

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11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 7:05, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:45
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G)
11:20, 12:20, 1:30, 2:30, 3:40, 4:40, 6:20, 7:10, 8:30, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:00, 11:30
DOOMSDAY (R) 11:55, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
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Hospital expansion welcomed by officials

Scott Spielman
Editor

Canton Supervisor Tom Yack had one word to sum up the proposed expansion at the St. Joseph Health Center on Canton Center Road.

“Awesome.”

The township board of trustees approved the site plan for the project last week. It will add about 56,000 square feet to the existing 80,000-square-foot facility that was constructed in 1998.

“What’s exciting is that it’ll bring new services to the community,” Yack said.

The addition will bring a new cancer center to the community, an out-patient operating room and improved digital imaging in the form of a 64-slice CT Scanner.

“There have been a lot of advances in both treatment and diagnostics within the past 10

years,” said Kathleen Kasperek, a representative of St. Joe’s. “That’s what we want to improve.”

Yack said township officials recruited the health care facility to the site when officials had been looking to locate a facility in western Wayne County more than 10 years ago.

“It’s really worked out well,” he said. “I’m glad to see them doing an addition.”

The new wing will be attached to the old building and emulate its architecture, according to Kasperek. It’ll be a two level structure with examination and operation rooms on the first floor and offices on the second. She said the plans to expand the building had been discussed for nearly as long as the existing building has been open and had recently picked up steam.

“It’s been on the short list for the past three or four years,” she

said. “The goal has always been to bring more services to the community.”

She said plans were in place to break ground in May on the first phase of the expansion, which would open up later this year.

The St. Joe facility has about 100 employees now, and the expansion would bring about 50 more, she said, including additional physicians, laboratory technicians, registration clerks and radiation therapists.

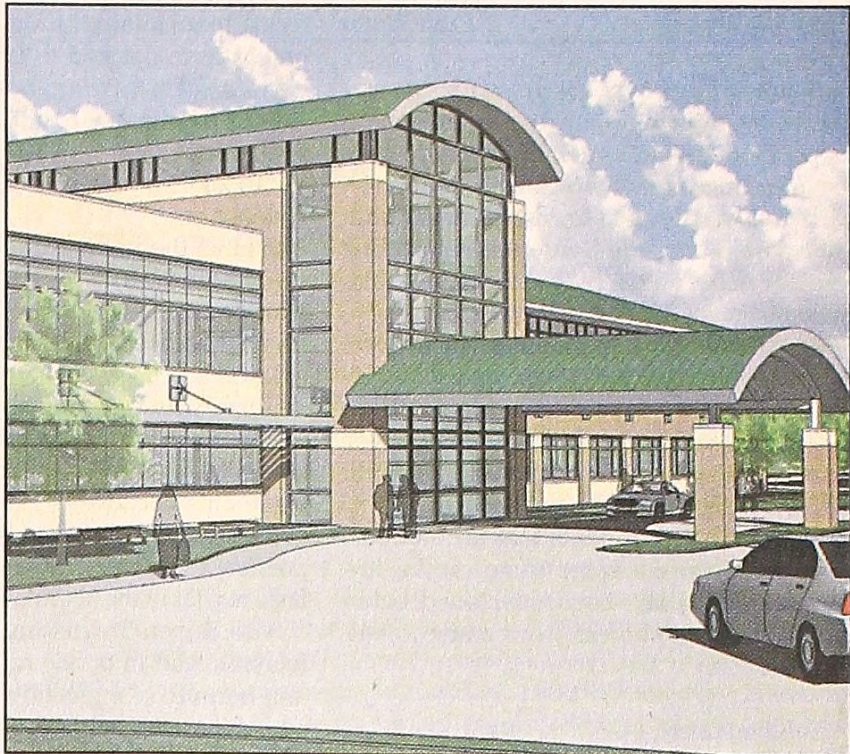
Canton Trustee Karl Zarbo said that and the additional investment were both welcome news.

“I think it’s a great success story,” he said.

Kasperek said the company would continue to be a good corporate citizen, as well.

“We feel like we have a good partnership with the community,” she said.

“It’s a good relationship.”



Renderings show the proposed expansion of the St. Joseph Health Center on Canton Center Road. Work will start in May.

Proposed home tax change could cost local communities

Scott Spielman
Editor

A plan to delay or change the ‘pop up’ tax homeowners see when they purchase property might help the real estate market at the expense of local municipalities.

Daniel Gilmartin, executive director of the Michigan Municipal League (MML) said last week that a proposed moratorium on the taxes might cause municipalities to cut some services. He urged the Legislature to find ways to assist homeowners without affecting the services that they count on in their communities—and to reject changes unless corresponding legislation is approved to allow municipalities to fund essential local services.

“These revenues, while some may describe them as minimal, are what many communities count on to keep their heads above water when trying to maintain and improve the quality of life for their citizens,” he said.

“This money is used to ensure our streets are safe, our water is clean and that our potholes get repaired,” he added. “If the Legislature passes changes to the pop-up, they would have to propose a way to restore the lost funding or send the message that they don’t care about the safety of their constituents.”

The issue comes up when someone purchases a home where the assessed value is not equal to the State Equalized Value. Proposal A stipulates that property taxes can only increase by 5 percent or the rate of inflation—whichever is lower—every year, but the exception to that rule is when property is sold. The two rates are then ‘uncapped’ leaving homeowners a jump in property taxes the next year.

A plan approved by the House of Representatives would set an 18-month moratorium on the tax, meaning that anyone who purchased a home within that window would continue to pay taxes at the

previous, lower rate.

The Senate is working on legislation to eliminate the pop up tax on properties whose value has declined, as well as to eliminate the real estate transfer tax. Both measures are designed to stimulate a soft real estate market.

Gilmartin said, though, that changing the “pop-up” jeopardizes funding to communities not at their Headlee cap (approximately half of the 533 cities and villages), which is used to finance such programs as public safety, water and sewage treatment, sanitation and local road maintenance.

He added that in communities that are already at their Headlee

“
If the Legislature passes changes to the pop-up, they would have to propose a way to restore the lost funding or send the message that they don’t care about the safety of their constituents.”

lost in revenue sharing since 2002, will make it even more difficult for communities to provide appropriate safe neighborhoods, parks, and other things that people expect when they move into a community.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has called for increases in statutory revenue sharing of 4 percent for the 2008-9 fiscal year, and that has been included in the initial House budgets. This new trend of ensuring services would be hampered by changing the pop-up without providing adequate funding alternatives.

“After years of flat funding and cuts to revenue sharing, the governor and Legislature are now talking about partially restoring the dollars promised for local services through statutorily promised revenue sharing,” Gilmartin said. “Pop-up tax changes without alternatives would hamper these gains and hurt local budgets and those officials who have done all they can to provide services as efficiently and effectively as possible.”

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Amid cutbacks, police services remain stable

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Statewide revenue sharing cutbacks and decreases in property taxes have placed a hardship on the ability of local municipalities to pay the high cost of providing police services, but most cities and townships are unwilling to compromise law enforcement staffing levels to make up the difference in their battered budgets.

As officials work to hammer out budgets for next year amid more expected state revenue cuts, police departments across Wayne County are forced to deal with fewer resources during a time when the demand for service has stayed the same.

For many departments that are not burdened with above-average crime, staffing levels and budgets have been maintained, but in others, difficult choices were made to balance budgets.

Ensuring safety

In Westland, the ninth biggest community in Michigan and one that has a fair amount of crime, cutting public safety in the face of budget shortfalls isn't seen as an option, said Mayor William Wild.

"As elected officials, we knew there were going to be budget problems, but we decided that we can't as a city balance the budget on the backs of the police department," he said. "It's our job to make sure the police department has the resources it needs to do its job – it's something we're committed to as a city."

"We just settled a five-year contract with the officers," he said. "We were able to provide a small raise for them because we cut back in other areas. We also kept staffing levels the same – we didn't hire anyone except to replace officers who retired."

The Westland Police Department is budgeted for 102 officers from the top down, and currently, they're down one officer, said Police Chief James Ridener.

"We have not grown," he said. "We're just trying to maintain the status quo. We, fortunately, have not had to lay anybody off. We haven't had to leave any positions open."

Still, the number of officers isn't as high as once was.

"In 2001, we were at 105 (officers)," said Ridener.

Unlike the upheaval faced by some area communities, Ridener said that the money allocated to the Westland Police Department hasn't fluctuated significantly in the past several years.

Jerry Champagne, director of the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department, said they have been fortunate to not have to make cuts because of township board support and keeping staff at the minimum level possible to deliver good service without having extra fat in the staffing levels.

Van Buren Township has been able to increase staff in public safety and the traffic unit because of a recently approved dedicated public safety millage. Therefore, no funds have been cut from public safety.

Others have endured cuts

In the cities of Plymouth and Inkster, however, manpower levels have not fared as well.

The city of Plymouth has reduced the police department from 21 officers to 15 during the past several years, according to Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll.

"We're doing more with less," said Carroll who would, in a perfect world, have a school resource officer and a downtown officer liaison, he said.

The cuts were made during 2002 after the city faced a more than \$1 million deficit and 2/3 of the city work force was lost to attrition and early retirement.

Despite the losses, Carroll said the department is still able to keep the community safe because of a low crime rate – FBI statistics indicate the city reported 16 violent crimes in 2006 despite gaining more than a 190 resi-

dents from the 2005 total of 8,884.

The city received 168 property crime reports in 2006 compared to 176 reports in 2005.

Despite the statistics, Carroll said the department cannot afford to go any lower in staffing. "It would dramatically hurt our services."

In Inkster, crime has gone down despite losing 17 officers in 2003 – when the city declined to fill open police positions. At that time, one officer was laid off, and few of the positions have been replaced since that time, said Inkster Police Chief Gregory Gaskin.

"I think we have two more officers than we did then," he said. "We have about two officers for every 1,000 residents – which is about normal – but we have some problems with crime that some of neighbors just don't have."

Though violent crimes have fallen, Gaskin said he's like to see more officers on the beat.

"We'd love to have those officers back," he said. "We could make more significant changes if we had them."

Gaskin said he has requested more officers, and that he's hopeful that at least some of the positions will be re-introduced.

How they're coping

Michigan has lost 1,600 officer positions since Sept. 11, 2001, which equates to fewer resources from the state and other agencies, said Champagne.

"It presents a challenge to all law enforcement agencies, including Van Buren Township," he said. "The loss of state shared revenues also places challenges on us. Fortunately, the township officials have helped to cut in other areas to support public safety as much as possible."

One way Van Buren has dealt with escalating needs versus stagnant resources is to reach out to other agencies.

"We also work with other agencies on investigations to share personnel resources. We entered into an agreement with Belleville

to provide dispatch services at a savings to the city and the township," he said.

"The millage has also allowed us to hire additional police officers and create a five beat patrol zone in lieu of the three beat patrol zone. The result is faster response time—especially in the south area of the township—and funds to staff the two fire stations 24 hours, seven days a week for quicker response times and safety of emergency personnel."

Grants have also provided some funds. In Van Buren, the department was able to secure \$12,000 for a new boat motor, \$6,000 to purchase traffic equipment, \$25,000 for in-car video recorders, \$20,000 for the dive team thermal imager, \$2,000 for patrol bikes and other various grants for training courses.

In Inkster, Gaskin said the department had to change the way officers were scheduled. The department converted from standard eight-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts to provide better coverage and cut down on overtime, which has saved funds.

In Westland, police officials have had to re-allocate resources. Police Chief James Ridener said that growing concerns about narcotics related problems led the department to refocus a car that had been used exclusively for alcohol enforcement to narcotics enforcement.

"We look at the trends and try to identify where we need to focus," he said.

In terms of the crime rate, that approach is likely to continue, Ridener added.

"We've had some ups and downs," he said.

Grants have also helped in Westland. The Office of Highway Safety Planning that help pay for drunk driving enforcement and justice assistance grants have helped pay for upgrades in the technology used by the department.

— Staff writers Andrea King, Meghan Chatham, and Lester Holmes contributed to this report.

Calendar of events

Story time is back

The Romulus Public Library will once again host the "Story Time" program.

Story time is designed for pre-schoolers from the age of 3-5 years old. Crafts are included in the program.

Sessions are scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through March 25, and on at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays through March 26.

There is no charge for families to attend.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

Egg hunt is under way

Children are invited to find all of the eggs hidden by the wily rabbits of the Romulus Recreation Department during the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The hunt – which will take place Saturday, March 22 – will begin at noon on the grounds of the Romulus Senior Center at 36525 Bibbins St.

Hunters will be able to pick up a bag for the hunt on the patio behind the senior center. Prior to the hunt, a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Community United Methodist Church's Men's club will take place from 8-11:30 a.m. at the church.

The Easter Bunny will also officially arrive during the event, and will pose for pictures with children for \$2.

Children will compete in four age groups, including 3 and under, 4-5 years old, 6-7 years old, and 8-10 years old.

Pre-registration is not required, and participation is free.

Community United Methodist Church is located at 11160 Olive St.

For more information, call the Romulus Department of Recreation at (734) 941-8665.

Softball leagues forming

Men's Sunday Softball "D" leagues are organizing for the 2008 summer season.

Up to eight teams are needed to comprise the league, and games will take place at Elmer Johnson park, which is located at 9755 Ozga Road.

Players need not be a Romulus resident to join a team.

Game times will take place at various times from noon-8:45 p.m. on differing days.

Registration fees are \$500 per team, or \$50 to hold an individual spot. Those fees include umpire fees, the 18-game schedule, and playoff and tournament awards given at the end of the season.

A manager's meeting will take place at 5 p.m. on May 12 at the recreation department.

The softball league is sponsored by Romulus Parks and Recreation.

For more information, call the department at (734) 941-8665.

- Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen. Information about events can be sent via e-mail to mtippen@journalgroup.com, or by fax at (734) 729-1840.

News briefs

FROM PAGE 1

how go away is the worst thing to do. Persons facing foreclosure should contact the Taxpayer Assistance Section of the Wayne County Treasurer's Office. Taxpayer Assistance is dedicated to assisting taxpayers in any way they can, and that includes han-

dling hardship applications, officials said.

Taxpayer Assistance can be reached at (313) 224-6105.

Residents should be aware that if their application is approved, this does not give them an exemption from paying property taxes, but will extend the deadline on 2005 tax bills.

—Compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen

Plan

FROM PAGE 1

The plan

A requirement mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration, the master plan was devised with the assistance of contractors and planners hired by the Wayne County Airport Authority in 2006. The plan includes building a fifth parallel runway that would be constructed in about 2017, if passenger traffic warrants it.

An underground or above-ground monorail system could be added to transport travelers and employees around the airport grounds by 2013. A cargo operation could be added near the Wayne-Vining Road area, and a new runway could be constructed to accommodate passenger travel.

To make room for the expansion, the 350-unit Sky Harbor Apartments would have to be demolished, along with 30 improved industrial buildings, 18 improved commercial buildings, the Halecreek fire station, the Oakbrook subdivision, Merriman Elementary School, and possibly Halecreek School.

Vote

FROM PAGE 1

Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Detroit), who fear a casino 17 miles outside of the city will cut into the dedicated revenue stream Detroit gets from three gambling houses.

Proponents of the Romulus and Port Huron casinos said during the hearings that they believe a casino in the city would have little effect on Detroit casinos.

A casino development would bring at least one 200-room hotel and additional restaurant and service businesses to cater to gamblers and travelers on site at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. It would bring about 3,000 jobs to Wayne County, and would provide a dedicated rev-

enue stream for the city of \$4 to \$10 million annually, according to city estimates. Those jobs could potentially lift the region out of the economic doldrums, Lambert said.

"We need this very badly at this point – we don't have any jobs coming here," Lambert said. "We just don't have the kind of investment we had before – we need to get people back to work. It's not just about Romulus, it's about the entire region."

Voters approved gaming a little more than four years ago in December 2003, when a special election took place in the city to determine whether residents would support a casino development near the airport. Voters approved that measure decisively.

Once a vote on the bill is called

ing the hardship application and bringing together experts to assist residents.

"Quite frankly, it is about survival," he said. "Whatever our office can do to help people navigate their way through the myriad hardships they are experiencing we are more than happy to do."

"I believe strongly that it is in our best interest, and in the best interest of Wayne County, socially as well as economically, to be proactive on this matter," he said.

Lambert said there are few, if any, solutions coming outside of the general economic conditions in the area improving.

"That's what happened at LaGuardia, Kennedy and Newark (airports) just last week," he added.

Conway also said the plan – when it comes to the fifth runway – is in the future.

"It would not be constructed until 2017 – and there would be a Part 150 environmental study that would take place to determine the effect of the runway would have on the area," he said. "That would happen before the runway is constructed."

At the next meeting of the Wayne County Airport Authority, Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert will speak about the plan, said Conway.

"That is something that our CEO (Lester Robinson) was not afforded at the March 11 meeting the city had," he said. "Lester was prepared to give a presentation, but was told he could not. It was their meeting, so they can do that, but some newspaper articles said it was a suggestion that he shouldn't speak – but it was actually more than a suggestion."

That Airport Authority is expected to vote on the proposed master plan tonight at the regular meeting.

”

The main worry is that people are losing their homes – and that's tragic.

Mayor Alan Lambert

for, the full House will vote to support or reject the measure. If it is approved, it will have to move on to the U.S. Senate, which will then vote.

Officials in Romulus hope the issue is decided on their side.

"The main worry is that people are losing their homes – and that's tragic," Lambert said. "We have to be optimistic right now."

"This is part of what happens when so many jobs are lost," he said. "We wouldn't be in this position if we had jobs."

One aspect of the foreclosure crisis that may be overlooked is that it came along at a difficult time for the city, which is building new homes as a result of plans set into motion when the real estate picture was rosier.

"We haven't had any developer back out on us, but we have had to work with them to give them extensions on the projects," he said. "We are still building, but it's just not anywhere near the level we were at just a short time ago."

OPINION

Greed strips away the mask of ‘cooperation’

Northville Township officials got the letter Tuesday they half expected but hoped would never come.

An annexation petition, signed by the security guards at the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital site, arrived at the office of Township Clerk Sue Hillebrand.

What a sad, sad day for Northville Township, the City of Livonia, the residents of both municipalities and elected officials everywhere who try to proactively plan for the betterment of their communities.

All these people will be negatively impacted by this attempt. It will pit neighbor against neighbor as officials in Livonia and Northville grapple with the implications. It will put an asterisk on land use requirements and local regulations everywhere.

And it's all being done, apparently, because of greed. Representatives from Real Estate Interests, Inc and Schostak Brothers Construction (REIS) have said throughout this two-year planning process that they want to negotiate with township officials to come up with a cooperative agreement.

They can't say that anymore. They've said all along that the reason they installed manufactured homes on the property was to provide for better security around the clock. They never categorized the fact

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What a sad, sad day for Northville Township, the City of Livonia, the residents of both municipalities and elected officials everywhere who try to proactively plan for the betterment of their communities.

that those ‘guards’ registered to vote as the first phase in an attempt to annex the property to Livonia.

They can't say that anymore, either. Like the officials in Northville Township, we hoped it wouldn't come to this. We always thought it was a shadow threat, an implied strong arm tactic that the developer would use to force the township representatives to ignore the plan for the property that they painstakingly came up with months before it was even put on the market.

That was bad enough, but now we believe this was the plan all along.

All the talk about negotiations and compromise were apparently just smoke in the wind. This is an acknowledge-

ment that the developers always thought that they didn't have to play by local rules, they had no concern about the lasting impact their project would have on the community and no true desire to make it fit in.

It also sends a pretty strong message to the residents and officials of Livonia, too:

“This development doesn't fit the standards for Northville Township, but you're going to love it.”

There are plenty of factors that will make this an interesting ongoing situation. There's the litigation that both sides are currently embroiled in—the township board was already set to meet in a closed session about that on Thursday. There's the legislation that was introduced recently, in several forms and in both legislative chambers, that would protect townships from annexation proceedings. Who knows, perhaps that even forced the developers to accelerate their timetable.

And then there's the ongoing he-said, they-said dialogue between the two sides about the ‘negotiations’ so far.

This will throw an additional wrinkle into that. It does point out one thing, though, that's hard to deny: it shows which side has been operating on the up and up, and which has been working covertly to thwart the other's good intentions.

Rental reinspection necessary for safety

Legislation pending in the Michigan Senate will further erode local control and could jeopardize the safety of Michigan renters.

Senate Bill 635, introduced by State Sen. Valde Garcia (R-Howell), would prohibit municipalities from conducting rental inspections every two or three years as many of them do and require them to perform the task every five years, instead. They could perform inspections more frequently only if a complaint has been lodged.

It's hard to envision what the goal of this legislation is. Perhaps the justification is that if building departments have to conduct fewer inspections, they'll need fewer staff members and it'll ultimately save money for municipalities.

Perhaps. But at what cost? The reason communities do regular rental inspections is to promote the safety and well-being of renters, who are often viewed by many as second class citizens. Keeping dwellings up to code can be expensive and landlords are generally in the business for a profit more than any other reason. Rental properties tend to contribute more toward blight in the community than do homes owned by their occupants.

Officials in the City of Wayne sent a resolution in opposition to the legislation recently and received word back from their senator, Raymond Basham, that he would keep their views in mind if and when the issue came up for a vote. It's easy to understand why the Wayne folks oppose the change; they have a large number of rental units, they're continually trying to upgrade the image of the community and they often have difficulty dealing with absentee landlords.

Besides, anyone who has rented an apartment or home anywhere can attest to the kind of damage that can be done or routine maintenance neglected in three years, let alone five.

This legislation has been referred to the Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee. We hope it stays there. It needs to be re-inspected.

Construction woes are unavoidable for progress

The proposed reconstruction of Main Street in the City of Belleville may hit another pothole next week.

A number of business owners have discussed filing a right of referendum petition against the sale of bonds that would fund the year-long project, thereby effectively putting it off for an entire year. They had 45 days from the announcement to sell bonds in order to get the petition ready with enough signatures. The deadline to file the petition is March 31.

It's easy to understand their concern, but we don't think this is the right approach.

There's no way to complete such a project without a significant disruption of business along the street. Members of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Spicer Engineering Group have done what they can to alleviate the situation, planning for complete closures that will be as short as possible, keeping lanes open to traffic for as long as possible and doing the work as quickly as possible.

Business owners proposed an alternative, too, which would see the new water main installed this fall, the road covered back up and then



Intuition, or just blind luck?

If the closure and subsequent sale of the Robert Scott Correctional Facility does, indeed, turn out to be a boon for Northville Township, State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton), may turn out to be one of the unsung heroes behind it.

Township officials got word last week that the state planned to close down the facility next year, declare the land as surplus and put it up for sale. It was something that was long in the rumor mill, but when the call came it was a relative shock—even though it was a pleasant surprise.

The reason I bring it up is because it wasn't too long ago that township officials fielded another—and very different—call from the state about the facility.

A few years ago, state officials tried to sneak through a line item in the Department of Corrections budget that would provide for an expansion at the facility. Township officials caught onto it, were justifiably outraged and moved quickly to act on it. Patterson was among those instrumental in installing an 880-prisoner cap on the facility.

John Cordell, a spokesperson for the Department of Corrections, credited that cap as one of the main reasons the facility now needs to be closed and the prisoners moved to the Huron Valley Center in Ypsilanti.

“It really limits our flexibility with the Scott facility,” he said last week.

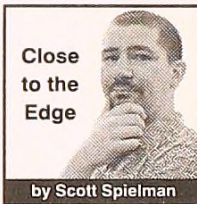
Now, whether it was known back in the day that the prisoner limit would eventually lead to the closure of the facility is unknown. Was it political intuition or just blind luck? Either way, the short-term vote—which may have been looked at in some circles as a knee jerk reaction—paved the way for a long-term benefit in the greater Northville community.

I tend to take a lot of swipes at our legislators in Lansing and, I think, with good reason. There's too much party politicking going on, too much finger pointing, too much discussion, too much blame and not enough solutions.

So it's only fair that I should point out the things that they do right in the meantime, the way they respond to the locals and make decisions that help out in the short and long term.

Now, if Patterson and the other folks up in Lansing can get the state to actually work with township officials on the closing of the facility and what should happen to the land there after that—instead of just talking about it—that would be quite a feat.

After all, the sale of the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital started out with those rosy thoughts, too.



Close to the Edge
by Scott Spielman

Chamber director will be missed

After 19 strawberry festivals, Christmas parades, Goodfellow projects, auctions and various Central Business Community events, Janet Millard, director of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce is calling it quits.

It's time, she said, to retire from the position. Although Millard is actually from Ypsilanti Township, she's become somewhat of an icon in Belleville. Anyone who knows Belleville knows Millard. She's almost everywhere—whether work related or not—so it's going to be odd not to see her as the chamber director any longer.

Millard started at the chamber in May 1989 just when the West Willow schools were closing. It all came down to her son, who went to Belleville schools, and finding a job in the city, she said.

“All I knew at the time about the chamber was that they went to lunch,” 65-year-old Millard said jokingly. “I couldn't even find the building.”

But after years of being the ‘one-person office,’ Millard knows where it's at and what she liked about the job: the customer service, the volunteer coordinating and event planning.

“It's been busy over the years here,” she said.

“Everyone's always doing something and if there's one thing going on, there's going to be 10 more.”

Millard even found time for her own local cable show—The Chamber Report—where she talked about area events and topics. However, Millard said she does all those things not only because she can; but because she wants to.

“I think the strawberry festivals are my best memories or maybe the worst,” she said laughing. “I don't have any regrets; I could've gotten things done differently and there were things that were frustrating, but there's nothing really bad I can say.”

“I'll miss the people when I'm gone, but I'm also excited to go and for new opportunities,” she added.

And even though the woman can talk your ear off and knows almost everything about everyone, when the roles are reversed, she hates to be interviewed. Even so, I've found over the years she was the first one I went to as a reporter for the community and she'll probably still be there for the news in the end.

By the time this prints, Millard will only have



King's Court
by Andrea King

JOURNAL

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See Main Street, page 6

See Director, page 6

Airport expansion plan affects local communities

The Detroit Metro Airport has proposed an expansion plan that includes building a new fifth 10,000-foot runway that will slash a southwesterly swath through existing homes, businesses and schools. This runway, if constructed, will force thousands of residents out of their homes, close business and shut down schools.

What is clear about this proposal is that it will have devastating impacts on Romulus and other nearby communities. What is not clear about this new master plan is whether or not it is needed, and whether or not it will benefit the region economically.

The runway will inflict a devastating cost on our community and our families. It will force 3,500 citizens from their homes, including as many as 310 students, raze hundreds of homes, close 50 businesses and industries and may shut down two elementary schools. Our community will lose 16 percent of our population and \$114 million in revenue overnight if the airport is allowed to push this plan through.

In addition to gutting our community, the new runway threatens our citizens' safety, homes and businesses. The new runway would cut through Eureka and Middlebelt roads – two of our region's busiest surface roads – and creep closer to additional highly populated areas, and encroach on deep-injection wells that hold hazardous chemicals. And the expansion would isolate sections of our community from

each other, increasing response times for police and fire.

Furthermore, the master plan will worsen noise and pollution over many communities, from Romulus and Taylor to Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Inkster, to name a few.

Our community has many concerns that have not been answered. Our questions are:

Does the airport need a new runway?

Can the airport grow without it?

Why do other busier airports operate successfully with only three or four parallel runways?

Is the new runway safe for passengers and surrounding land-uses?

How has previous airport development actually benefited the region?

How will the expansion impact local fire, police and ambulance service?

We also have questions about decreased traffic, the construction time-frame, whether over-building will financially burden Northwest and the Airport Authority, and whether unneeded facilities will squeeze passengers and hurt the airport and the local economy.

Romulus and others have acted in good faith in our participation with the airport. However, the airport has not shared data or answered our questions, which must be answered before this project can move forward and irre-

versibly affect our community.

That's why citizens and community leaders have raised their voices to ask fundamental questions about this plan, including the mayors of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster and Taylor: Other communities are also ready to support us. The runway will impact more than just Romulus. It affects all of southeast Michigan. We all deserve to know the full impact of the airport's proposal.

The airport says the new runway is needed to bring in jobs. We support any proposal that creates jobs. However, the airport has offered no evidence that a new runway will create jobs, a crucial case to make given the project's extreme cost-benefit gap.

Romulus and our citizens and local businesses have long supported the airport, viewing it as an asset and a true partner in our community. We appreciate the positive role it has played to bring opportunities, business and jobs to the region and we remain willing to work constructively with the airport to understand its latest proposal.

On March 20, the Airport Authority Board is scheduled to review this plan and may be asked to vote on it. We urge the board not to consider the plan until all concerns have been addressed. We are eager to work with the airport to come up with a positive, forward-looking proposal that will help it meet its goals while protecting our community.



Guest opinion
by Alan Lambert

Groups hope to protect state water

An exceptionally snowy, wet winter may mean good things for lake and river levels in the State of Michigan.

A group of activists and legislators want to make sure that's as far as it goes, though.

Members of several conservation groups got together in a town hall meeting last week to protest legislation that would make it easier for other states to draw from the vast reserves of the Great Lakes and to put out a strong message: Michigan water is not for sale.

"Our precious water defines who we are as a state," said Cyndi Roper of Clean Water Action. "It is essential that the public have a strong voice in protecting Michigan water from abusive withdrawals and diversions."

"Michigan's Legislature must not allow large corporations and special interests that profit from the withdrawal of our water to write the laws protecting our Great Lakes, rivers, streams and drinking water sources," she added.

Several proposals affecting Michigan water are scheduled for action soon in both the House and Senate. Bills that would ratify the proposed Great Lakes Compact are already on the floor of each chamber. They would, among other things, allow up to 25 percent of some

Michigan inland rivers and streams to be available for export with little or no oversight by the state, according to James Clift, policy director of the Michigan Environmental Council.

"It is critical that the state maintain control over large proposed water withdrawals in sensitive areas of the state," he said. "State oversight and community involvement in decision making will lead to better protection of our water resources."

"Michigan citizens have spoken loud and clear regarding the decision to remove huge quantities of water," added Grenetta Thomassey, policy director for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. "The small businessman who built a fishing lodge on the AuSable or Betsie River has a vested interest in keeping our rivers and streams healthy and must have a say in proposals that could allow 25 percent of from their local river to be withdrawn. Our water must remain in the public trust, not in the hands of special interests."

The organizations have set up two web sites to make it easier for interested residents to contact their legislators about the issue. They are www.michiganwaternotforsale.com and www.greatlakesgreatmichigan.org

Kelly Boelter, formerly at the Plymouth Salvation Army, will take Millard's spot at the chamber and while I mean no offense to her, she will certainly have some big shoes to fill.

Janet, thanks for everything you've done for Belleville. You'll be missed.

Main Street

FROM PAGE 5

reconstructed next year. The problem with that plan is that some of the work has to be done twice, which will add to the overall cost.

The plan proposed by the DDA is far from perfect. We have concerns about the timetable, too—the design work was finished only

recently and the bids for the project aren't due until April 10—after most contractors have finalized their projects for the year. We think that will lead to a project that's more expensive than if all the proverbial 'i's had been dotted and 't's crossed and could negatively impact the timetable, if the project turns out to be add-on work for an already busy firm.

Business owners would probably be better served by planning to

cope with the construction season and doing whatever they can to make sure it goes by as quickly as possible—for everyone's sake.

City officials should remember, too, that they have the right to reject the bids should they come in too high. If that turns out to be the case, or if they only receive a few bids, it might make more sense to get everything in order for 2009 and push for a project that everyone is on board with at the outset.

Director

FROM PAGE 5

about a week or so left at the chamber. She's still going to work, she said, and most likely a front desk job.

CLASSIFIED

- 01. Obituaries
- 02. In Memoriam
- 03. Cards of Thanks
- 04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
- 05. Personals/Announcements
- 06. Legal Notices
- 07. Attorneys
- 08. Entertainment
- 09. Lost & Found
- 10. Coming Events
- 30. Help Wanted

- 31. Help Wanted Sales
- 32. Help Wanted Drivers
- 33. Child Care
- 34. Specialized Services
- 35. Situations Wanted
- 40. Business Opportunity
- 42. Health and Fitness
- 43. Money to Loan
- 44. Music/Art Lessons
- 45. Adult Care
- 46. Private Schools/Instruction
- 47. Riding/Horses/Stables

- 50. Pets & Supplies
- 54. Rummage Sales
- 55. Estate Sales
- 56. Flea Markets
- 57. Antiques
- 58. Garage and Yard Sales
- 59. Auctions
- 60. Misc. Sales
- 61. Misc. Items
- 62. Building Supplies
- 63. Business and Office Equipment

- 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
- 65. Tree Service
- 66. Landscape / Nurseries
- 67. Garden Plant / Supplies
- 68. Garden / Produce
- 70. Masonry / Brickwork
- 72. Cleaning Services
- 73. Musical Merchandise
- 74. Sporting Goods
- 75. Boats / Accessories
- 76. Remodeling & Renovations
- 77. Recreation Vehicles

- 78. Hunting / Fishing
- 82. Wanted to Buy
- 87. Room for Rent
- 88. Duplexes for Rent
- 89. Apartments for Rent
- 90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
- 92. Business Places for Rent
- 93. Banquet Halls
- 94. Farm Land for Rent
- 95. Real Estate
- 96. Houses for Rent
- 97. Cottages for Rent

- 98. Mobile Homes for Rent
- 99. Flats for Rent
- 100. Will Share
- 101. Wanted to Rent
- 102. Storage
- 103. Business Property for Sale
- 104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
- 105. Mobile Homes for Sale
- 106. Houses for Sale
- 107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
- 108. Lake and Resort
- 109. Income Property

- 110. Lots for Sale
- 111. Out of State Property
- 112. Commercial Lease
- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
- 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
- 118. Freebies
- 119. Auto Repairs
- 120. Motorcycles
- 121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

ANGOVE, Florence M. March 12, 2008 age 89. Beloved wife of the late Philip. Dear mother of Ronald (Joann), Edward (Barb) and Judy (William) Igo. Grandmother of Randy (Patti), Mike (Lori) and Chris (Erica) Angove, Andrea (Joe) Tenbusch, Shane Angove, Mark Igo and Jeff (Indu) Igo. Great Grandmother of Zachary Glezman, Joshua Glezman and Kristi Igo. Sister of the late Evalyn Lanstra, Ellen Ahrenber and Edna Ferguson. The service was held at First United Methodist Church, Wayne, with Pastor David Stewart officiating. Family received friends at the Uht Funeral Home, Westland. Memorials to the church would be appreciated. Please visit and post a note of condolence at www.uhtfh.com



FLOYD, Gregory Lee, age 51, died March 3, 2008. He was born February 6, 1957. Greg leaves to mourn his passing and cherish his memory, his loving mother, Velva Jean Floyd; a brother, Vernon Edward Floyd of Anaheim, CA; an uncle, Frederick D. Floyd and aunt Jessie Mae Barrett of Detroit,

MI; aunt Angela Marie Vernon (Sugar) of CA; 2 nephews, Vernon Edward Skinner (Jaws) of Detroit, MI and Vernon Edward Floyd Jr. (Cheesie) of CA; a niece, Cynthia Marie Floyd (Girle) of CA; and a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held at Greater Grace Temple-Taylor with Suffragan Bishop Gary Harper officiating. Interment was at Knollwood Cemetery, Canton, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



TENNYSON, Willie James, age 59, died March 7, 2008. He was born March 29, 1948. Willie leaves to rejoice in his memory, his mother, Ruby Tennyson of GA; four children, Anthony D. Carter of MI, Robert Carey (Karae) of NC, James Carey (Tracy) of MI and Jamie Tennyson of MI; two step-children, Veronica Diggs of MI and Reginald Carey of MI; six brothers and

sisters, Annie Ruth Worsham of GA, George T. Tennyson of GA, Thelma Stride (James) of GA, Charlie (Chuck) Tennyson of MI, Darvin Tennyson (Beatrice) of MI and Dorothy Little of GA; six grandchildren, Joseph, DeAndre, Robert Jr., Nicholas, Robert, Brandon and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Services were held at the Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Dr. John E. Duckworth officiating. Interment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

30. Help Wanted

NOW HIRING: Companies desperately need employees to assemble products at home. No Selling, any hours. \$500 weekly potential. Info. 985-646-1700 Dept. MI-7180

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34. Specialized Services

BRATCHER ELECTRIC
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Must be organized and dependable. Strong communications skills and computer literacy a must. EXTREME attention to detail required. Call: 734-595-3814 11:00AM-4:00PM M-F

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121. Autos Wanted

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248-474-4425

31. Sales Help Wanted

ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

The Journal Newspapers has immediate openings for sales representatives to serve our circulation area. Candidates must have reliable transportation and a willing attitude. Base plus commission. Newspaper or media sales experience preferred, but will train the right candidate. Please send resume detailing experience and availability to:

Susan Willett
Journal Newspaper Group
P.O. Box 339
Wayne, MI 48184

32. Help Wanted Drivers

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40. Business Opportunity

Looking for more business referrals? The Masters of Opportunity chapter of BNI meets every Friday from 7am to 8:30am at the Wayne Tree Manor. Visitors are Welcome. Call Trish at: 734-890-1250

ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. Do you earn up to \$800/day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and Candy. All for \$9,995. Call 1-888-744-4651.

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www.christtempleafcw.com

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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

42. Health and Fitness

NEED MEDICAL SUPPLIES???
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DO YOU HAVE MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH???
Donate your supplies outright to the "Medical Supply Sharing Ministry."

Whether you need supplies, or have supplies to donate, or have questions about the program, call Cathy at 734-699-5565

59. Auctions

AUTO AUCTION
Howard's Towing & Collision
35830 Van Born Rd.
Wayne, MI 48184
734-326-1114

Thurs., March 27, 2008
1:00 AM
All Vehicles Sold "As Is"
Cash Only

1995 Ford Crown Vic
2FALP71W25X174280

2006 Ford Focus
1FAHP36N66W198761

1982 Mercury Capri
2MEBP612XC626814

1994 Pontiac Grand Am
1G2NW15M9RC711718

1993 Ford Explorer
1FMDU34X9PUC39219

1989 Honda Civic
2HGED6359KH510125

1995 Dodge Neon
1B3ES67C8SD152205

1995 Nissan
1N4AB41D4SC718696

1994 Pontiac Grand Am
1G2NE15M8RM514262

1992 Chevrolet Caprice
1G1BL53E4NR116897

1992 Oldsmobile Royale
1G3HN53L8N1816477

1994 Ford Tempo
1FAPP36X4RK122917

1994 Buick LeSabre
1G4HR52L2RH455262

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on March 26, 2008 at 11:00 AM at:

J & M Towing
8964 Inkster Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

1998 Chrysler
3C3EL55H4TT324900

1997 Ford
1FALP52U6VG144954

1990 Lincoln
1LNLM81F9LY678279

1996 Plymouth
1P4GP44R0TB146994

1998 Ford
1FAFP653XWK180117

2004 Jeep
1J4GL38K04W187427

1997 Dodge
1B4GP54L0VB487513

1985 Lincoln
1CNBP96F9FY642095

1998 Ford
1FAFP6636WK262005

1988 Plymouth
1P3BP46D4JC259659

1989 Chrysler
1C3XJ45K7KG249729

Trailmobile
1PTG1JAH5S9013606

1997 Freightliner
2FUYDMD83VA792983

1997 Freightliner
2FUYDMD86VA792976

1995 Ford
1ZVLT22B455124497

1995 Pontiac
1G2H25217Y4261900

Please Note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges

On March 26, 2008, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at J&T Towing and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1993 Ford PU
1FTCR10A9PPB83627
07-15043

1995 Saturn 4D
1G8ZH5288SZ169501
07-23445

1987 Ford ST
1FMDU15YXHLA24306
08-257

1995 Ford VN
1FTFS24Y1SHA93440
08-2629

1996 Plymouth ST
2P4FP2534TR827610
08-2653

1997 Ford 4D
1FALP13P4VW163946
08-2724

1993 Oldsmobile ST
1GHDT13W1P2705297
08-2828A

1994 Mitsubishi 2D
JA3EA21A9RU040880
08-2828B

1994 Ford VN
1FTEE14Y8RHB86883
08-2879

1994 Pontiac 2D
1G2NE1538RM584318
08-2935

1984 Ford ST
1FMCU14S0EUC78167
08-3098

1995 Jeep 4D
1J4FX58S7SC773410
08-3255

1996 Ford ST
2FMDA5147TBC59676
08-3330B

1989 Ford PU
2FTEF15N9KCA32830
08-3444

1988 Buick 2D
2G4WD14W1J1414358
08-4604A

1995 Chevrolet PU
1GCF24H9SZ148465
08-4604B

1987 Oldsmobile 2D
2G3GM11YXH2334155
08-4604C

Upon completion, the auction will move to Great Lakes Towing and Storage, 42350 Van Born Rd., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1995 Dodge PU
1B7HF16Z9SS309678
08-2599

1992 Mercury 4D
3MAPM1481NR612885
08-3033B

1990 Mazda PU
JM2UF4145L0889726
08-3424

1988 Chevrolet 4D
1G1BL51H3JR168173
08-3832

1992 Chevrolet 2D
1G1JC1448N7223179
08-4753B

1999 Strick TL
1S12GC450XB727305
08-5143

1995 Strick TL
1S12GC403SB695091
08-5167

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

\$500 POLICE IMPOUNDS!
Cars/Trucks from \$500.
Hondas, Chevys, Jeeps,
Fords and more. For listing
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61. Misc. Items

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\$150 KING PILLOWTOP
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\$75 QUEEN PILLOWTOP
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734-427-1300

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CITY OF ROMULUS
The City of Romulus ordains
That Chapter 3 of the City of Romulus Code of Ordinances
Is hereby amended as follows:
City of Romulus Code of Ordinances
Chapter 3
Article IV. Entertainers and Dancers
As amended - March, 2008

Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, William Wadsworth.
Absent: Randolph Gear

Ayes: Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays:None
Motion Carried Unanimously.

At the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council of Romulus, Michigan held at the Romulus City Hall on Monday, March 3, 2008, the following resolution was offered by Councilperson Craig-Bragg, supported by Councilperson Burcroff :

To amend the City of Romulus’ Amusements and Entertainments Ordinance (Chapter 3) to provide more clearly defined restrictions on the scope of permissible sexually-explicit dancing and entertaining licensed under Section 3-101 and 3-116.

Whereas:

The Romulus Police Department has recently conducted a number of investigations of adult entertainment establishments within the City of Romulus wherein numerous instances of sexually explicit “lap dances” and other lewd conduct have been observed. It is believed that such activity exceeds the scope of the sexually explicit dancing and entertaining permitted by the laws of the State of Michigan.

Whereas:

Prosecution has arisen out of these investigations, during the course of which, counsel for numerous defendants have raised questions regarding the scope and 3-116 of the Romulus Code of Ordinances and the parties affected thereby (particularly when read in conjunction with Chapter 20, Section 20-151).

Whereas:

It has recently been argued that Chapter 3, Section 3-101 and Section 3-116, when read together, permit virtually all manner of sexual activities within public entertainment establishments in the City of Romulus, provided that the performer of such activities possesses a dancing / entertaining license, issued by the City.

Whereas:

The “specified sexual activities” presently described under Section 3-101 include those which are not lawfully performed in public entertainment establishments under the laws of the State of Michigan.

An ordinance to amend Section 3-101 of Article IV, Entertainers and Dancers, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Romulus.

Section 1: The City Council of the City of Romulus hereby ordains:

Section 2: SHORT TITLE: This ordinance shall be known and cited as the amended Entertainers and Dancers Ordinance.

Section 3: Section 3-101 DEFINITIONS is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3-101. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Specified anatomical areas means less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks, female breasts from below a point immediately above the top of the areola, and human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, whether or not covered.

Section 4: Section 3-116 **REQUIRED** is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3-116. Required.

(a) It shall be unlawful for an licensee, his agent or employee, or any theater or establishment offering any kind of show emphasizing specified anatomical areas to employ any person as a dancer or entertainer unless such person possesses a valid entertainer’s license issued by the city.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to provide his or her services as a dancer or entertainer in any theater or establishment offering any kind of show emphasizing specified anatomical areas, unless such person possesses at the place of employment a valid entertainer’s license issued by the city.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any dancer or entertainer or other performer in any theater or establishment offering any kind of show emphasizing specified anatomical areas or otherwise to engage in acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse, or sodomy, fondling or other erotic touching of human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks, or breasts, or otherwise engage in other contact intended to simulate such acts, whether licensed or unlicensed.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting any kind of show emphasizing specified anatomical areas in violation of the laws of the State of Michigan, the regulations of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, the Romulus City Charter, or the Romulus Code of Ordinances.

Section 5: The provisions of this amendatory ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication as required by City Charter.

Section 6: Penalty: Any persons who willfully violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance or policies shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of Five hundred (\$500.00) dollars, or to imprisonment for a period not to exceed Ninety (90) days, or to both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the Court.

Section 7: Severability: Should any section, clause or provision of this Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than that section, clause or provision of this Ordinance declared by such Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid.

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk, for the City of Romulus, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the Romulus City Council at its regular meeting held on the 3rd day of March, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

ATTEST:
Alan R. Lambert, Mayor

Within forty-five (45) days after the publication of any ordinance duly passed by the Council, a petition may be presented to the Council protesting against such ordinance and shall be signed by not less than six (6%) percent of the registered electors registered at the last proceeding election at which a Mayor of the City was elected. Said ordinance shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from operation and the Council shall immediately reconsider such ordinance.

Chapter 3
Amendment 2
Amended Entertainers and Dancers Ordinance

Introduced: February 25, 2008
Adopted: March 3, 2008
Publish: March 20, 2008

CITY OF ROMULUS
The City of Romulus ordains
That Chapter 3 of the City of Romulus Code of Ordinances
Is hereby amended as follows:
City of Romulus Code of Ordinances
Chapter 3
Article V. Adult Media Materials
As amended - March, 2008

Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, William Wadsworth.
Absent: Randolph Gear

Ayes: Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth
Nays:None
Motion Carried Unanimously.

At the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council of Romulus, Michigan held at the Romulus City Hall on Monday March 3, 2008, the following resolution was offered by Councilperson Barden, supported by Councilperson Burcroff:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF ROMULUS, MICHIGAN BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE V. TO THE EXISTING ORDINANCE.

Whereas:

The City of Romulus regulates Amusements and Entertainments by way of Chapter 3 of the Romulus Code of Ordinances.

Whereas:

Questions have recently arisen regarding requirements and guidelines for the sale, display, and purchase of media and other materials of a sexual nature.

Whereas:

The present Code is in need of modification to more fully set forth the specific requirements and guidelines for the sale, display, and purchase of such adult media and other materials.

Section 1: SHORT TITLE: This ordinance shall be known and cited as the amended Adult Media Materials Ordinance.

Section 2: The City of Romulus Ordains that in the interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Romulus, Chapter 3 of the Code of Ordinances shall be amended by way of an addition to read as follows:

ARTICLE V. ADULT MEDIA AND MATERIALS

Section 3-121. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(a) *Adult media or medium* means any book, magazine, periodical, videotape, digital video disc, software, computer file, or any other printed or recorded visual and/or audio medium depicting or containing human genitalia, buttocks, breasts, pubic regions, sexual intercourse, sodomy, masturbation, or other sexual contact.

(b) *Adult materials or material* means any product or device designed to be utilized in sexual intercourse, sodomy, masturbation, or other sexual contact, or which replicates genitalia, buttocks, breasts, or pubic regions. Adult materials or material does not include products or devices specifically designed for contraception.

(c) *Display* means to make visible or audible to customers, passersby, or any other member of the public.

Section 3-122. Sale, Purchase, Rental and Display of Adult Media and Materials.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to rent, sell, or offer for sale and/or rental any adult medium or adult material to any person unless such person is aged eighteen (18) or older and which person has provided valid photo identification with proof of such age. The sale and/or rental of any adult medium or adult material by way of a vending machine or similar device shall also be subject the restrictions set forth in the preceding clause and any other restriction set forth in the Romulus Code of Ordinances.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase and/or rent any adult medium or adult material unless such person is aged eighteen (18) or older and which person has provided valid photo identification with proof of such age. The purchase and/or rent of any adult medium or adult material by way of a vending machine or similar device shall also be subject the restrictions set forth in the preceding clause and any other restrictions set forth in the Romulus Code of Ordinances.

(c) It shall be unlawful to display any adult material or adult medium unless such display covers or blocks from view and hearing by any person under the age of eighteen (18) any human genitalia, buttocks, breasts, pubic regions, sexual intercourse, sodomy, masturbation, or other sexual contact depicted therein.

(d) The provisions and requirements of this Article are additional to any requirements which may apply to the persons endeavoring to or engaging in the sale, rental, display, or purchase of products or items set forth in the Romulus Code of Ordinances.

Section 4: The provisions of this amendatory Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication as required by City Charter.

Section 5: Penalty: Any persons who willfully violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance or policies shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of Five hundred (\$500.00) dollars, or to imprisonment for a period not to exceed Ninety (90) days, or to both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the Court.

Section 6: Severability: Should any section, clause or provision of this Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than that section, clause or provision of this Ordinance declared by such Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid.

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk, for the City of Romulus, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the Romulus City Council at its regular meeting held on the 10th day of March, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

ATTEST:
Alan R. Lambert
Mayor

Within forty-five (45) days after the publication of any ordinance duly passed by the Council, a petition may be presented to the Council protesting against such ordinance and shall be signed by not less than six (6%) percent of the registered electors registered at the last proceeding election at which a Mayor of the City was elected. Said ordinance shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from operation and the Council shall immediately reconsider such ordinance.

Chapter 3
Amendment 2
Amended Adult Media Materials

Introduced: November 13, 2007
Adopted: March 3, 2008
Publish: March 20, 2008

SPORTS



Romulus senior Dominique Buckley drives to the basket against Orchard Lake St. Mary's on Tuesday in Milford. Romulus won the state quarterfinal match-up, 54-48. Buckley had nine assists in the effort. Photo by Jeff Novak



Romulus senior Will Clyburn goes up for a dunk against Orchard Lake last Tuesday for two of his team-leading 14 points. He also scored three triples. Photo by Jeff Novak



Romulus senior Devin Pankey battles to get a shot off against towering Orchard Lake senior center Davide' Curletti. Photo by Jeff Novak

End of the road Buzzer-beater ends Eagle's season

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The season wasn't supposed to end this way for the Romulus Eagles.

Romulus was ranked as one of the top teams in the state at the beginning of the season.

The Eagles were only the second team in Mega Red conference history to finish an undefeated 12-0, resulting in a conference championship. They captured a district crown, too, and this year's team was only the third in Romulus' history to win a regional championship and win a state quarterfinal contest.

Something happened along the line and Eagles didn't end up where they and many others thought they would or should be—back at the Breslin Center for the Class A finale on Saturday.

That something was Detroit Pershing senior Demetrius Ward.

With the last few seconds of the overtime period ticking away in the semifinal game, Ward pulled up and fired a short jumper at the buzzer of the overtime period, giving his Doughboys a 79-77 victory at the Breslin Center in East Lansing on Friday.

Romulus senior Devin Pankey gave the Eagles hope of a second overtime period when he made a great under-the-rim layup off a pass from senior Laron Rodgers with 25 seconds left. The shot tied the game at 77.

The 25 ticks were enough for Pershing to move the ball across midcourt for a timeout. The rest was up to Ward.

"It was a tough to go out on one like that," said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. "The kids worked so hard and wanted it so bad. But it was a heck of a year."

Both teams struggled in the first quarter as they racked up a total of 27 turnovers. Romulus accounted for 14 (10 in the first quarter). Pershing managed a 17-13 lead after one.

The Eagles took control of the second and outscore the Doughboys, 25-10, including a 20-0 run that lasted up to the 1:50 mark. Romulus finished the first half up, 38-27.

The third was pretty calm with Romulus managing a six-to 12-point lead throughout. Romulus finished with a 61-51 advantage.

The Eagles beat themselves in the fourth with turnovers. Romulus committed an uncharacteristic 11 in the frame and finished with 35 for the game. Romulus also fell short from the free-throw line, where they converted only 57 percent.

"We were averaging only about 10 turnovers a game in the playoffs," Oats said. "But with having 35 turnovers and only shooting 20-35 from the line and sending the game into overtime says a lot about how hard we guarded on defense, which was our strength all year."

"I feel bad because that was the only time that a lot of the people there got to see us," he added. "I don't think that it was a good representation of how we played through the rest of the season."

Senior Will Clyburn led the Eagles with 18. Rodgers added 12, Martell Anderson, 11, and Dominique Buckley, 10. Junior Rashard Porter scored nine and had six

assists.

The future still looks pretty bright for the Eagles.

Sure, they lose seven seniors—six of which were steady in the rotation—but Oats has nine players with extensive varsity minutes returning next year.

Buckley is headed to Iowa State University while fellow seniors Clyburn, Anderson, Pankey, Mario Crawford and Josh Elliot also graduate.

Returning juniors include Rashard Porter; Filmore Bouldes and Valdez Green. All had a tremendous amount of playing time this year.

Sophomore DeAndray Buckley, also considerable playing time, will also be back as a junior.

"This is the most experience that we will start a season with," Oats said. "They're all great players and I think Dray (DeAndray Buckley) will be really, really good next year. He just has a nose for scoring. Plus, we have a lot of kids on the bench that didn't get much time but would be great starters for any team."

Oats should also have juniors Cody Barnes, Demetrius Price, Stefan Jenkins, Derek Kinney and Donnavin Searcy back as seniors.

Romulus Eagles hold off Orchard Lake in quarter finals

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

With a 54-48 victory over Orchard Lake St. Mary's on March 11, the Romulus Eagles were Breslin-bound again.

"It feels great," said senior guard Dominique Buckley after the game last week. "We're on our way to the Breslin now—all the way."

It was Eagle versus Eagle as the two teams battled it out on a neutral court at Milford High School in Highland. OLSM proved to be Romulus' toughest opponent in the playoffs so far.

OLSM dominated the paint especially in the first and third quarters. Davide' Curletti, standing at 6-foot-9 for OLSM, dominated the boards with 15 rebounds. He earned a good portion of his team-leading 14 points off put-backs. His 6-foot-6 teammate, Dion Sims, accounted for eight rebounds and 13 points.

But what the Eagles lacked in size they made up for in distance.

Romulus' seven triples between five players is nothing to gawk at but the timing was everything.

OLSM overcame a 12-point half-time deficit to square things up at 40 at the end of the third by outscoring Romulus, 20-8, but the game was far from over.

Romulus senior forward, Will Clyburn, opened the final frame with a triple and senior Martell Anderson's and senior guard Laron Rodgers' three-point darts deflated OLSM's hopes of advancing to the state semifinals on Friday.

The flurry of triples only gave Romulus a 49-44 advantage half way through the period. Junior guard Rashard Porter followed the triples with a deuce with 3:38 left to play.

That would be enough to hold off the

'other' Eagles.

"They were big, scrappy and physical," Buckley said of the competition. "We had to fight for everything to get the win. We had to fight hard the whole time because they were out-rebounding us and we had to find it within ourselves to get the win."

Clyburn showed what he could do early. He scored the game's first basket—a triple. That spurred Romulus to a 12-8 lead with less than three minutes to play in the first quarter.

OLSM went on an eight-point run—scoring twice on Romulus turnovers—for 16-14 lead after one.

Porter knotted things up at 17 with a three-

pointer at the seven-minute mark of the second quarter.

The momentum shifted to Romulus when Clyburn, off of a turnover, took the rock full court for a slam-dunk. That sent the crowd to its feet and OLSM to the bench for a timeout.

"When ever Will gets a dunk or something like that, it feels great because the crowd gets into it and the bench is in to it," Buckley said.

Clyburn hit another triple to put his Eagles up, 27-17. Sophomore DeAndray Buckley finished the first-half scoring with a triple for a 32-20 lead for Romulus. The biggest difference in the quarter was Romulus' defense. They held OLSM to just four points.

Clyburn finished with 14 points. Senior forward Devin Pankey had a quiet 10 points. Dominique Buckley, headed for Iowa State, only scored five points but notched nine assists. His brother DeAndray scored eight.

Romulus headed to the Michigan State University's Breslin Center in East Lansing to play Detroit Pershing—a team Romulus beat earlier in the season. They ultimately lost the game (see related story, above).

I feel bad because that was the only time that a lot of the people there got to see us.

We had to fight for everything to get the win. We had to fight hard the whole time because they were out-rebounding us and we had to find it within ourselves to get the win.

SPORTS

Ignition lands 1st place

Jeff Novak
 Staff Writer

With just five games left to play in the regular season the Detroit Ignition proved why they just might be the team to beat again this year.

Detroit, now 18-7, beat the struggling Orlando expansion team, 18-2, at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township on Friday night. The landslide gave the Ignition sole possession of first place in the league—for a little while, anyway.

Detroit owned a one-game lead over Milwaukee for a day before the Wave trounced the Ironmen, 22-6, on Sunday to take a share of the top position with an 18-7 record.

On Friday, the Ignition couldn't have made it look any easier.

Forward Hewerton Moreira scored a hat trick against the Sharks (3-24) to lead the club to their sixth straight win.

Former Ignition midfielder Miodrag Djerisilo scored Orlando's only points of the night just 14 seconds into the match, when he put a two-point goal past Ignition goalkeeper Tomer Chencinski.

The Ignition was quick to overcome the 2-0 deficit and went on an 18-point scoring spree to put the game away.

Jamar Beasley struck first for Detroit, scoring two points at 3:15 of the first with an assist from Moreira. Ignition midfielder Ze Roberto netted a two-point tally at 8:50, and Kyt Selaidopoulos followed 13 seconds later with another two-point score for Detroit.

Moreira added a pair of two-pointers in the second quarter to put the Ignition up, 10-2, going into the half. Selaidopoulos was credited with the assists on both goals.

It didn't take long for the Ignition offense to get rolling in the second half.

About a minute into the third quarter, midfielder Doug Rice notched a two-point tally with an assist from Beasley. He followed with an unassisted two-point shot at 4:40. Birmingham native Ryan Mack followed Rice's lead and scored two points less than two minutes later off an assist from Vahid Assadpour. At 10:57 of the third, Moreira scored his third goal of the night, a two-point tally, with an assist from Droo Callahan to bring the final score to 18-2.

The Ignition faces the California Cougars (9-16) on Saturday in Stockton.



Detroit's leading scorer Jamar Beasley (right) makes a move against Orlando defender Felipe Lawall in the Ignition's 18-2 victory Friday night at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. Photo by Ken Garner



Detroit's Hewerton Moreira tries to break free from Orlando's Jorge Valle on Friday. Moreira scored a hat trick in the team's sixth straight victory. Photo by Ken Garner

CITY OF ROMULUS
 NOXIOUS WEED NOTICE TO THE
 PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE
 CITY OF ROMULUS

In accordance with P.A. 359 of 1941, as amended and Chapter 19, Article 3, of the Romulus Code of Ordinances it shall be the duty of all owners of lands on which noxious weeds are found growing, to destroy the same before they reach a seed bearing stage and to prevent such weeds from becoming a detriment to public health.

If any such owner, agent or occupant of such land shall refuse to destroy such noxious weeds or cause them to be destroyed, it shall be the duty of the Noxious Weed Commissioner to enter upon such land and destroy such noxious weeds.

Nothing in this notice shall apply to weeds in fields devoted to growing any small grain crop such as wheat, oats, barley or rye.

All weeds not cut by May 1, 2008 will be cut by the City and the owner of the property will be charged with the cost. Subsequent violations will result in additional cuttings and will be done as often as necessary when vegetation reaches 12 inches in height and/or seed bearing stage.

Any expense incurred in such destruction shall be paid by the owner or owners of such land, and the city shall have a lien against such land for such expense. Any owner who shall refuse to destroy such noxious weeds shall also be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.00 per cutting in the discretion of the court.

All refuse and debris on the given owners property will be removed by the City at the owners' expense.

Publish: March 13, 2008
 March 20, 2008

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
 ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD MARCH 3, 2008 IN
 THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m, by Chairman Pro Tem William Wadsworth

Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Wadsworth.

Excused: Randolph Gear.

Administrative Officials in Attendance:
 Betsey Krampitz, Chief of Staff
 Linda R. Choate, Clerk
 Pamela Morrison/Kersey, Treasurer

- Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to approve the agenda as amended.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-053
- Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held February 25, 2008.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Abstain - Barden, Crova

- 3A1. Item Deleted.**

08-054
- 4A. Motion by Bragg, supported Burcroff to adopt a resolution for future elected officials ensuring that on Thursday, October 25, 2035 at 12 O'clock noon the buried Time Capsule shall be exhumed and opened with great fan-fare.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

- Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to accept the Chairpersons Report.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-055
- 6A1. Motion by Bragg, supported by Burcroff to adopt an Ordinance amending the Romulus Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20, Article VI, Offenses Against Public Morals, Section 20-151 Accosting and Soliciting.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

- 08-056**
- 6A2. Motion by Bragg, supported by Burcroff to approve second reading and final adoption of Chapter 3, Article IV, Entertainers and Dancers Ordinance, introduced at the meeting held February 25, 2008.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 08-057**
- 6A3. Motion by Barden, supported by Burcroff to approve second reading and final approval of Chapter 3, V, Adult Media material introduced at the meeting of November 13, 2008.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

- 08-058**
- 6A4. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to schedule FY-2008/2009 Budget Schedule Workshop for April 14 and 28, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. and a Budget Public Hearing Monday, May 5, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. to be held in the City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

- 08-059**
- 6A5. Motion by Bragg, supported by Crout to grant a no-fee permit to the Moslem Shriners Annual Hospital Fund Drive benefiting the Shriners Hospitals for children to be held June 19 - 21, 2008, at intersections and in front of businesses seeking donations from the public.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

- 08-060**
- 6A6. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to schedule an executive session on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6:15 p.m. to be held in the City Council Chambers located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 for the purpose of discussing pending legal matters.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

- 08-061**
- 6B. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with City Attorney Barry Seifman and send the following resolution to the Environmental Protection Agency:

Motion by Councilman Crova, supported by Councilman Crout:

WHEREAS, the City of Romulus is a city in Michigan that has the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Romulus is greatly affected by the presence of the Airport; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Romulus opposes any changes in environmental standards for airports that would lower the existing air quality and/or other environmental standards to communities affected by airports like Romulus, and would indeed encourage raising such environmental standards to improve quality of life.

- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays -None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.
- Motion by Crout, supported by Burcroff to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
 Linda R. Choate, Clerk
 City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on March 3, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
 City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: March 20, 2008

SPORTS

Playoff time

Plymouth Whalers lose 3 straight, ready for Rangers

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

With the playoffs starting this week it wasn't a good sign when the Plymouth Whalers dropped their final three games of the season over the weekend.

The three losses knocked the Whalers down to 34-28-2-4 for the season—and last place in the West Division of the Western Conference. That places Plymouth against the Kitchener Rangers 53-11-1-3 (1st in the Midwest Division) in the playoffs, which start on Friday in New York.

Plymouth's 50 shots on goal weren't enough to get by host Saginaw on Sunday afternoon.

Saginaw net-minder Ryan Daniels stopped 47 shots in the game. The three most important ones came in the shootout, when he stonewalled Whalers Chris Terry, A.J. Jenks and Andrew Fournier.

The performance earned the Spirit a 4-3 victory.

Tyler McDonough put the game away when he knocked a shot past Whaler goalie Matt Hackett in the shootout.

Before that, Plymouth fought tooth and nail to stay in the game.

Saginaw raced to a 2-0 lead with tallies by Tyler Murovich (13:19) and McDonough (15:11) on a power play in the first period. Jenks, with help from Fournier and Michal Jordan on a power play, narrowed the gap for Plymouth with a goal at the 16:11 mark.

Adam Comrie opened the second frame with a quick power-play goal just 52 seconds in. Patrick Lee brought Plymouth to within one when he scored at 8:24. Fournier and Jordan notched the assists again on the power-play mark.

Fournier earned his third power-play assist in the game when he got the puck to Joe McCann, who put it behind Daniels to knot the game at three just 56 seconds into the third period.

A scoreless overtime period led to the shootout.

Plymouth falls to Sarnia

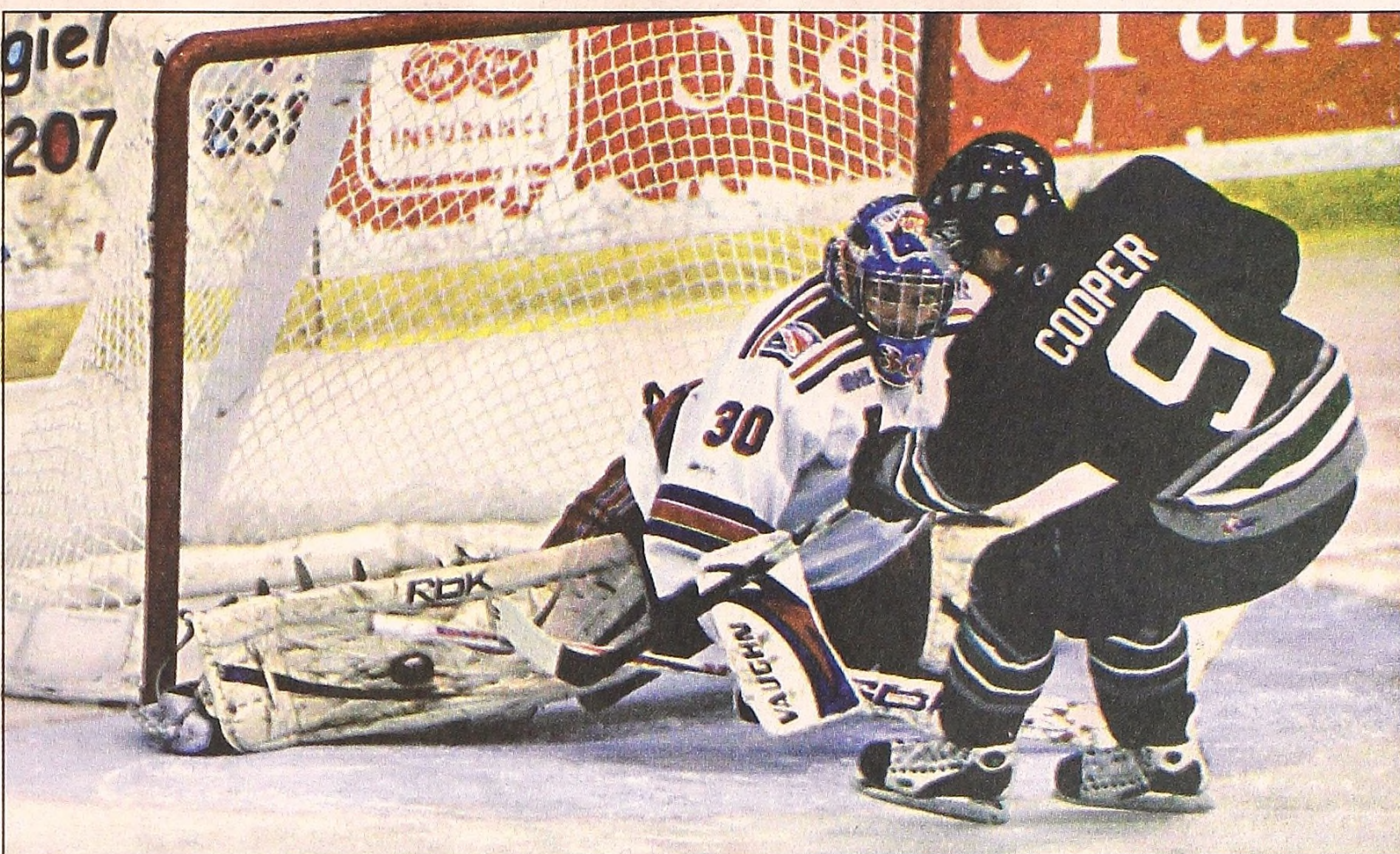
Sarnia star Steven Stamkos' four-point game helped boost the visiting Sting past Plymouth, 5-4, on Saturday.

Stamkos—the projected No.1 pick in next year's NHL Entry Level Draft—scored twice in the first period, giving the Sting a 3-0 lead. Teammate Daniel Lombardi scored the first goal of the game.

Plymouth stormed back with three goals.

Tyler G. Brown scored his first career OHL goal at 12:47 of the first period to start the flurry. Jenks and Ryan Hayes assisted. Kaine Geldart, from Hayes and Jenks, opened the second session with a goal at 3:02 and Joe Gaynor evened things up at 10:29. Brett Bellemore assisted on the equalizer. Sarnia's Ryan Wilson scored an unassisted power-play goal at 12:55. Lee returned the favor with less than two minutes to play to make it a 4-4 game.

With less than five minutes left to play in the final period, Sarnia's Matt Martin



Plymouth's Vern Cooper shoots on Kitchener goaltender Josh Unice Feb. 16 at Compuware Arena. Whalers face the Rangers on Friday for the start of post-season play.

Photo by Rena Laverty

buried the winning goal.

Sault Ste. Marie hounds Plymouth, 5-2

The Whalers couldn't collar the Greyhounds on Friday and fell, 5-2, in Sault Ste. Marie.

Plymouth fell behind, 1-0, early but McCann brought the Whalers back when he tallied off of a Lee pass about midway through the first period on a power play. The hounds scored again in the first and two times in the second frame for a 4-1 advantage.

Bellemore scored 4:37 into the final period to make it a 4-2 game. Lee and Jenks were credited with the assists.

Brandon Biggers rounded out the scoring for the Hounds on an empty-netter with 1:17 left.

Playoff Schedule

The Plymouth Whalers drew the Kitchener Rangers in the first round of the Ontario Hockey League playoffs, starting Friday night at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium.

Kitchener (league-best 53-11-1-3, 110 points) is the top team in the Canadian Hockey League rankings and will host the Mastercard Memorial Cup in May. Plymouth (34-28-2-4, 74 points) finished the regular season as the eighth seed in the OHL's Western Conference playoff race.

The dates of the Whalers-Rangers Western Conference Quarter-final series are:

Game 1 - Friday, March 21 at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m.
Game 2 - Saturday, March 22 at Plymouth, 7:05 p.m.

Game 3 - Monday, March 24 at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m.

Game 4 - Wednesday, March 26 at Plymouth 7:05 p.m.

Game 5 (*) - Friday, March 28 at Kitchener 7:30 p.m.

Game 6 (*) - Saturday, March 29 at Plymouth 7:05 p.m.

Game 7 (*) - Tuesday, April 1 at Kitchener 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the series are available by calling the Compuware Sports Arena at (734) 453-

8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

All Plymouth games are broadcast on-line on www.plymouthwhalers.com, starting 10 minutes before the start of the game. Plymouth fans can watch all Whalers road playoff games on WhalersVision at the Compuware Arena's Ginopolis on the Ice Restaurant. The restaurant will be offering food and drink specials during the broadcasts. Reservations can be made by calling Ginopolis on the Ice at (734) 453-4455.

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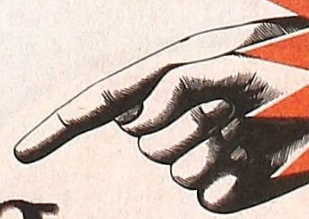
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